

# Establishing a method for assessing academic advising for higher education students

SB 1053 by Zaffirini (Aycock)

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## DIGEST:

SB 1053 would have required the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to establish a method for assessing the quality and effectiveness of academic advising services at each higher education institution, using input from higher education representatives, academic advisors and other professionals. The assessment would have to have included the use of student surveys and identified objective, quantifiable measures for determining the quality and effectiveness of academic advising services.

## GOVERNOR'S REASON FOR VETO:

“Senate Bill 1053 requires the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to develop a methodology to assess quality and effectiveness of higher education academic advising services to students. The bill is silent as to what is to be done with the assessment methodology once it is developed. The bill is an unfunded mandate and will distract the agency from higher priorities.”

## RESPONSE:

Sen. Judith Zaffirini, the bill’s author, said: “Gov. Rick Perry was ill advised to veto SB 1053. Passed unanimously by the Legislature, the bill would have directed the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and relevant stakeholders to develop an instrument to assess the quality of academic advising. Because assessing academic advisors is a priority of the National Academic Advising Association and because many students and parents have expressed their frustration with academic advising, I filed SB 1053 as an important first step in ensuring that students succeed academically and are graduated timely, thus saving parents and the state millions of dollars. The bill would have helped us address the goals of Closing the Gaps by helping students receive better advice and by enhancing retention, persistence, and graduation rates.

“SB 1053 reflected continued and well-justified confidence in the Higher Education Coordinating Board, which would have conducted the study. Perhaps the governor vetoed the bill because his Business Council recommended the replacement of this board.”

Rep. Jimmie Don Aycock, the House sponsor, was unavailable for comment.

## NOTES:

SB 1053 passed the House on the Local, Consent, and Resolutions Calendar and was not analyzed in a *Daily Floor Report*.